

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

PER-03 A-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 /038 W

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O 271517Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9373

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 03079

DEPT. FOR: EUR/EX - PLEASE PASS TO AMBASSADOR ARMSTRONG

E.O. 116,52:N/A

TAGS: OTRA ARMSTRONG, A.L..

SUBJECT: PRESS ARRANGEMENTS FOR AMBASSADOR'S ARRIVAL.

ALTHOUGH EMBASSY WILL ALERT ALL PRESS ABOUT DATE AND TIME, PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH LATE EVENING ARRIVALS AT HEATHROW AIRPORT - EVEN AMBASSADORIAL ONES - SUGGESTS FEW, IF ANY REPORTERS WILL BE ON HAND. YOUR SCHEDULED ARRIVAL (2140) IS TOO LATE FOR FILING STORIES AM DAILIES, BUT NEWSPAPERS WILL LIKELY SEND PHOTOGRAPHERS. THEREFORE, ALTHOUGH WE EXOECT NO NEWS CONFERENCE AT AIRPORT, WE HAVE PREPARED BRIEF DRAFT ARRIVAL STATEMENT WHICH WE SUGGEST YOU MAKE ONLY IF THEY IS SUFFICIENT TURNOUT.

TEXT: WE ARE DELIGHTED TO BE IN GREAT BRITAIN AND MY HUSBAND AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WHAT WE ARE CONFIDENT WILL BE A HAPPY STAY. I AM DEEPLY HONORED TO BE CHOSEN BY PRESIDENT FORD AS AMBASSADOR TO THE COURT OF ST. JAMES'S, A MOST IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT WHICH HAS BEEN NOBLY SERVED THROUGH THE YEARS BY DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS. I AM PARTICULARLY HAPPY TO BE SERVING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM DURING A TIME WHEN BOTH OF OUR PEOPLES WILL BE CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF ANGLO-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP. I AM PROUD THAT OUP ASSOCIATION HAS NEVER BEEN CLOSER AND LOOK FORWARD TO MAKING WHATEVER CONTRIBUTION I CAN TO PROMOTING THE GREAT HERITAGE AND TRADITIONS WE HAVE SHARED. END TEXT.

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IF YOU HAVE NO OBJECTION, WE WILL ORGANIZE FORMAL PHOTO CALLS AT WINFIELD HOUSE AND AT EMBASSY ON DAY AFTER ARRIVAL. THESE ARE TRADITIONAL AND WILL BE REQUESTED BY MEDIA. ALTHOUGH WE WOULD NOT PLAN TO ARRANGE NEWS CONFERENCE UNTIL AFTER CREDENTIAL PRESENTATION, INITIAL RECEPTION FOR RESIDENT AMERICAN PRESS MARCH 16 WILL DEVELOP INTO INFORMAL QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION UNLESS YOU PREFER OTHERWISE. WITH THAT IN MIND AND IN VIEW OF NUMBER OF MEDIA REQUESTS FOR EARLY INTERVIEWS, WE HAVE ALSO PREPARED A FEW SAMPLE QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT BE ASKED EARLY ON. BEGIN TEXT:

1. IN THIS ERA OF KISSINGERIAN-STYLE FOREIGN POLICY, WHAT ROLE DO YOU SEE FOR YOURSELF AS AMBASSADOR TO GREAT BRITAIN?
2. YOU WERE ONE OF THE MOST LOYAL OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S SUPPORTERS DURING THE WATERGATE PERIOD. IN VIEW OF HIS CHINA TRIP, DO YOU SEE A ROLE FOR HIM IN WORLD AFFAIRS TODAY?
3. YOU AND GENERAL HAIG HAD A WORKING RELATIONSHIP AT THE WHITE HOUSE. WILL YOU BE SUPPORTING HIS CALL FOR A GREATER CONTRIBUTION TO WESTERN DEFENSE BY AMERICA'S NATO ALLIES?
4. SOME OF YOUR VIEWS HAVE BEEN QUOTED AS BEING NOT UNLIKE THOSE OF MRS. THATCHER. WOULD YOU AGREE WITH HER THAT THE MILITARY THREAT FROM RUSSIA IS UNDERESTIMATED IN THE WEST?
5. AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON IS ON RECORD AS CONDEMNING

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9374

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 03079

AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR THE IRA TERRORISTS. WHAT SHOULD THE US GOVERNMENT DO TO CURTAIL SUCH SUPPORT?

6. THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS HAS RECENTLY REITERATED ITS OPPOSITION TO FOX-HUNTING AND THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL BODY OF PARLIAMENTARY OPINION THAT WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT ABOLISHED. AS A KEEN HUNTER, WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT AND DO YOU PROPOSE TO HULT IN BRITAIN?

7. REGARDING THE CURRENT INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE ROLE OF THE FBI, HOW WOULD YOU COUNTER THE CHARGE THAT THE FORD ADMINISTRATION'S ABUSE OF EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE IS WORSE THAN IT EVER WAS UNDER NIXON?

8. AS THE MOTHER OF FIVE CHILDREN, DO YOU APPROVE OF SEX BEFORE MARRIAGE?

9. DEVOLUTION IS A BURNING TOPIC HERE AT PRESENT. WHAT CAN BRITAIN LEARN FROM THE AMERICAN FEDERAL EXPERIENCE?

10. THERE IS A FAIR CHANCE YOU WILL HOLD YOUR PRESENT OFFICE FOR A SHORTER PERIOD THAN ANY OF YOUR PREDECESSORS. WHAT IS THE JUSTIFICATION FOR SUCH A POTENTIALLY BRIEF AND COSTLY APPOINTMENT?

11. WHAT WILL MR. ARMSTRONG BE DOING WITH HIS TIME WHILE HE IS HERE?

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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